

# MYSORE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Friday, 31st March, 1967*

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore at Twelve of the Clock.

MR. SPEAKER (SRI B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA, B.A., B.L.) in the Chair.

## CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE *Re: PREVALENCE OF A STRANGE CHILDREN'S DISEASE IN SHIMOGA TOWN.*

MR. SPEAKER —There is a Calling Attention notice to a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 63 which relates to the prevalence of a strange children's disease in Shimoga Town. I have received also besides notice from the two other Members Sri K. H. Srinivas and . Bangarappa, short notice question from Sri A. R. Badrinarayan and also another short notice question from Sri S. Bangarappa. I ask the Minister to make a statement. Perhaps calling attention notice means no supplementary. So, I would allow calling attention notice included in the agenda and also I call upon the Hon'ble Member Sri A. R. Badrinarayan to put his short notice question. The Statement will be in reply to that also so that a few supplementaries could be allowed, because I feel this is an important matter. So, Sri K. H. Srinivas will now raise the matter.

SRI K. H. SRINIVASA (Sagar).—I call the attention of the Minister for Health and Housing to the prevalence of a strange children's disease in Shimoga Town.

SRI A. R. BADRI NARAYAN (Shimoga).—I put the short notice question. Will the Minister for Health and Housing be pleased to state :—

- (a) how many children died in Shimoga town from a strange disease, the nature of which is said to have not been diagnosed ;
- (b) is any remedy for the prevention and cure of the disease adopted ;
- (c) what steps have been taken so far in the matter ; if so, has it been found to be effective ;
- (d) has the disease spread to the adults also ;

**Sri K. PUTTASWAMY (Minister for Health and Housing).—**On March 18, 1967, a report was received by the District Health and Family Planning Officer, Shimoga that during the preceding week or two, some sudden deaths of children had taken place in the Azadnagar area on old Thirthahalli Road of Shimoga Town. Enquiries made revealed that there were six sudden deaths of children between the 2nd and 18th instant. Subsequently, two more deaths have been reported from the same locality, one each on 19th and 24th March 1967 respectively. Thus 8 children have died so far.

Full particulars of the children who have succumbed is given in the Annexure.

In one of the cases (Sl. No. 7 in Annexure), where death occurred on 19th March 1967, the parents consented to a post-mortem examination. The body was taken to the McGann Hospital where a post mortem was done and the Viscera and content samples were sent to the Chemical Examiner and to the Medical College for investigation.

The Chemical Examiner could not detect anything unusual in the Viscera. The Pathological examination seemed to point to a Virus infection.

In a subsequent case which did not result in death, examination of the stomach-wash by the Chemical Examiner seems to indicate the presence of traces of a Nitrophenol derivative (presumably from an insecticide containing parathion).

The professor of Medicine and the Professor of Pathology from the Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Bangalore who were deputed to Shimoga to assess the evidence and report on the probable cause of death have felt that the deaths may be due to poisoning; but the possibility of virus infection cannot be ruled out. They have recommended certain special tests to be conducted in respect of any fresh cases which would establish the real cause beyond doubt.

To sum up, while the exact cause of death has not been established beyond doubt, and the pathological evidence seems to indicate viral infection, the more probable cause appears to be death due to poisoning which in turn might have its origin in some insecticide.

ಶ್ರೀ ನಿರ್ದಯ್ಯ ಕಾಶೀಮಠ್ (ಶಿರಹಟ್ಟಿ).—ರೋಗ ಯಾವದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲವೇ ?

**Mr. SPEAKER.**—It is a new disease which has to be given a name.

**Sri SIDDIAH KASIMATH.**—At least they may name it.

**Sri A. R. BADRINARAYAN.**—Were there any more cases since the receipt of the report ?

**Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.**—No.

**Sri A. R. BADRINARAYAN.**—Has the disease spread to adults ?

**Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.**—No.

**Sri A. R. BADRINARAYAN.**—If the death is not due to infection, it is due to poisoning or other things, has the Police taken any action in the matter?

**Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.**—The police have not taken any action.

**ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಎಚ್. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ.**—ಈ ವಿಚಿತ, ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ವೈರಸ್‌ನಿಂದಲೋ ಅಥವಾ ಪಾಯಿಜಿಂಗ್‌ನಿಂದಲೋ ಯಾವುದರಿಂದ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ತೀರ್ಮಾನವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ವೈರಸ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಅದೇ ಪ್ರಾಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೆ. ಅದು ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್‌ ಕಾಡಿನ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ. ಆ ಪಾಯಿಲೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ತಜ್ಞರು ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಇದನ್ನು ವಾಚ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಗಿರಬೇಡು?

**ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪುಟ್ಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ.**—ಇನ್ನೂ ಅವರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ವಿಚಾರ ತಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗ ಪ್ರೇಸ್‌ ಗ್ರಾಜುಯೇಟ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರ್ ಆಫ್ ಪ್ಯಾಥೋಲೋಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರ್ ಆಫ್ ಮೆಡಿಸಿನ್ ಅವರು ಆ ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಇಂತಹ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗಳು ತಂಡರ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯಾದಂಥ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಗ ನಮಗೆ ತಿಳಿದಿರುವಷ್ಟು ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ “Poisoning due to some insecticides” ಎಂದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.**—ಇನ್ನೂ ಬ್ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಹೇಳಿದರೆ ತನಕ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಅದನ್ನು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೀರಾ?

**ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪುಟ್ಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ.**—ಮಾಡಬಹುದು.

**Sri AZEEZ SAIT (Narasimhraj).**—The Hon'ble Minister said that he received a report of suspected poisoning. ....

**Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.**—For the benefit of the Hon'ble Member I would repeat it over again. The more probable cause appears to be death due to poisoning which in turn might have its origin in some insecticide. The cause has not been firmly established.

**ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಬದ್ರೀನಾರಾಯಣ್.**—ಈ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾವುಗಳು ಅದ್ವಾದ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು; ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆಯೇ?

**Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.**—In the beginning it was in Azadnagar area of old Thirthalli Road of Shimoga Town. Subsequent cases were reported from Door and street No. Same, No. 9; Ismail residing in No. 109. The Hon'ble Member may be able to know the locality by the name or the door Number. I furnish the information in the statement, detailed below.—

(SRI K. PUTTASWAMY)

Statement showing the particulars of children reported to have died suddenly during 2nd March 1967 to 24th March 1967.

Sl. No.	Name of child	Age (in months)	Sex	Address and Father's Name	Date and time of attack	Date and time of death	Food Habit	Remarks
1	Rafeek Ahmed	2½	Male	Md. Ismail, D. No. 1598, L. Clerkpet <i>Alias</i> Azadnagar, (Rented House).	10-30 A.M. 2-3-1967	11-00 A.M. 2-3-1967	Breast fed only	
2	Ameer Hamaza	2½	Male	S/o Abbas, Residing in same house as Sl. No. 1.	at 12 NOON on 8-3-1967	12-30 P.M.	do	
3	Khaleel Ahmed	10	Male	S/o Basheer, School Master, Residing in the same House as Sl. No. 1.	10-30 A.M. 14-3-1967	11-30 A.M. 14-3-1967	do	
4	Salam ...	36	Male	Syed Sab, same as Sl. No. 1.	5-00 P.M. 16-3-1967	5-15 P.M. 16-3-1967	Normal feeding	
5	Abdul Kareem	1½	Male	M. D. Ismail, Residing in 1094, Sl. No. 1.	12-00 NOON 18-3-1967	12-45 P.M. 18-3-1967	Breast feeding	
6	Zulekha Bai ...	3	Female	do	1-30 P.M.	2-30 P.M.	Normal feeding	
7	Fathima Bi ...	9	Female	Shaikhamed, No. 32, same street.	11-30 A.M. 19-3-1967	12 NOON 19-3-1967	Breast feeding	
8	Saïda Bi ...	9	Female	Hukumkhan, 1091, same street.	4-15 P.M. 24-3-1967	5 P.M. 2-3-1967	Breast feeding	

**ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಬದರಿನಾರಾಯಣ್.**—ಈ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪೊಲೀಸರ ತನಿಖೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಲ್ಲವೇ?

**ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪುಟ್ಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ.**—ಈ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಭೆಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. 8 ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸತ್ತಮೇಲೆ ನಮಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಿತು. ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿಚಾರಮಾಡುವುದು ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ಕಠಿಣ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

**ಶ್ರೀ ಅಜೀಜ್ ಸೇಟ್.**—ಪುಗರ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಡಿಯನ್ನು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ತಿನ್ನುವುದರಿಂದ 100-200 ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಚಾರ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರಿಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿರಬಹುದು. ಅನೇಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಪುಗರ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಡಿ ತಿನ್ನುವುದರಿಂದ ಈ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿಚಾರ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀರಾ?

**Mr. SPEAKER.**—I wanted to disallow it, but the Hon'ble Member has taken care to add at the end 'will kindly examine it', so I allow it.

**ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಬದರಿನಾರಾಯಣ್.**—ಈ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಜ್ವರವಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಜನರ ಸಮಾಧಾನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಏನು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೀರಿ?

**ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪುಟ್ಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ.**—ನಮ್ಮ ತಜ್ಞರು ವಿಶೇಷವಾದ ಗಮನವನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸಭೆಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸುವಂತೆ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಗ್ರಾಜುಯೆಟ್ ಇನ್ಸ್‌ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿಶೇಷ ತಜ್ಞರು ಈ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಗಮನಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗಳು ಬಂದರೆ ಅದು ಬರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಏನು ಕಾರಣ ಎಂದು ನಮ್ಮ ತಜ್ಞರು ಕಂಡುಹಿಡಿಯುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಪಡುತ್ತಾರೆ.

**Sri K. H. SRINIVASA.**—I suggest that the matter be immediately brought to the notice of the specialists of KASINUR VIRUS also to keep vigilance about this and find out if there is any connection between that and this virus.

**Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA (Harihara)**—Have you taken any action to see that the disease does not spread to other parts of the State?

**Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.**—That is again begging the question. We have not been able to firmly establish that this is a strange disease. In fact in one case, the viscera was examined and it indicated that it may be due to some virus infection. In another case, the indications were that it may be due to poisoning which in turn might have its origin in some insecticide. We are keeping close watch,

**Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.**—Sir, may I take it that the experts are unable to discern what kind of disease it is or how many more deaths should take place before they are able to determine?

**Mr. SPEAKER.**—This is a call attention notice. Data is insufficient.

**Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.**—This is a very important matter. The fear is, it may be due to food poisoning and various other kinds of things. Probably it is some intestinal disease. We are only interested to see that it does not spread to other children.

**Sri AZEEZ SAIT.**—There should have been some more deaths. Something like 126 deaths probably!

**Mr. SPEAKER.**—Information available has been placed before the House.

**ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪುಟ್ಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ.**—ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಸಮಾಚಾರ ಒದಗಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಈಗ ವರದಿ ಯಾಗಿರುವಂತೆ 8 ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಒಂದು ಮಗುವನ್ನು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಮಾಡಿದಾಗ ಯಾವ ವಿಧವಾದಂತಹ ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರಣಗಳು ಕಂಡುಬರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ವೈರಸ್ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಯುಂಟಾಗಬಹುದೆಂದು

(ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪುಟ್ಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ)

ತಜ್ಞರು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಒಂದು ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ಇದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಬಂದು ಚೇತರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡಿದಾಗ :

"it seems to indicate the presence of traces of nitro phenal derivatives."

ಅದರಿಂದ ನೂರಾರು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸತ್ತ ಮೇಲೆ ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾನ್ಯನವರು ಆ ರೀತಿ ಊಹೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಈ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಅಜಾಗರೂಕತೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ಒಂದು ವಿಶೇಷವಾದ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಯೆಂದು ನಮ್ಮವರು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

**Sri M. S. KRISHNAN (Malleswaram).**—It is reported that there is another disease by name Kasanur disease. Will the Government examine that one also before some people die ?

**Mr. SPEAKER.**—A number of suggestions have been made and it only confirms the fact that this is a very important matter and the Government is fully aware of it.

**Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.**—Let it come from the horse's mouth.

**Sri A R. BADRI NARAYAN.**—From the answers given, out of 8 deaths from this disease, all relate to muslim families and most of the deaths are due to breast-feed. Does it give the experts any clue, Sir ?

**Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.**—It is not so.

**An Hon'ble MEMBER.**—Is there any kind of disease known as Kasanur Disease that is prevalent in the forestst?

**Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.**—It affects monkeys in forests. That is a old story. That has been examined.

### Members' Representations

**Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.**—I gave notice of certain call-attention motions.

**Mr. SPEAKER.**—This is the last day of the current sitting. We are adjourning today so if there is any information, or any elucidation, on any urgent matters, it may be asked. But so far as call attention motions are concerned, the Rules permit only one motion being admitted for a day. We have already had one under this head. But I would permit any Hon'ble Member who wishes to elicit any urgent information.

**Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.**—If the Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation is ready, I would like to call attention to the fact that elections are not held under the old Agricultural Market Produce Act and I want to know whether elections are going to be conducted under the new Act, passed in 1966.

**Mr. SPEAKER.**—If the Hon'ble Minister can say anything on that subject, he can say.

**Sri P. M. NAD GOUDA (Minister for Development and Co-operation).**—I am not ready, Sir.